

TABLE TALK

A publication of the Vermont Bridge Association
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Lee Corbett and Ross Lieb-Lappen have been regulars at the Burlington club for five years during their time as college students at Middlebury and graduate students at UVM.

Whenever Lee and Ross sit down at the bridge table, they always get asked the same question: how do two young people get involved in playing bridge? The age demographic of bridge has changed; several decades ago, playing bridge was the social norm for young people, especially in college. Now, however, most college students favor video games over card games, and very few young adults even know what bridge is. Even as children, Lee and Ross always chose cards over electronic forms of entertainment. They were both raised in card-playing families, and grew up playing hearts at family gatherings. It was only a matter of time before they discovered bridge and became hooked for life.

The first opportunity came in 2005 during their sophomore year at Middlebury College, when Lee and Ross signed up for a bridge class. Most of their peers, who had never heard of the game, assumed that Lee and Ross had enrolled in a class learning about the architecture of bridges. Ross's grandparents and dad played, but he didn't know anything more than counting points. Although the class only met four times, Lee and Ross were

simultaneously intrigued, challenged, and excited. Ross spent the following summer living with his aunt in Durango, CO, who first introduced him to duplicate bridge. Upon returning to Middlebury that fall, he had a mission: to teach Lee everything he had learned over the summer, and to make a maiden voyage to the Burlington club.

After dealing countless practice hands, the two felt ready by January 2006. Ross, for some unknown reason, decided a Thursday night was best (little did he know that it was the most competitive night at the club!). They showed up, wide-eyed and clueless, to a room full of some of the best players in the state. The game didn't go very well. Lee bid 3NT with no clubs, only to have Bryant take half a dozen club tricks right off the top. During a short pause after several rounds, Lee put on her coat and headed towards the door, exhausted and ready to go home... only to be told they were just taking a quick break, and the game was not even half-way done. They managed to finish the game with a meager 23%.

Despite the challenging first night at the club, Ross and Lee kept coming (but, more appropriately, on Monday nights). They came almost every week, making the hour-long drive from Middlebury for the next several years. During this time, they grew to love the game, and especially grew to love the friendly atmosphere and great companionship that are characteristic of the Monday night game.

Lee (Geology) and Ross (Environmental Chemistry) graduated from Middlebury College in 2007. After graduation, with only 2-3 masterpoints each, they embarked on a hiking, camping, bridge-playing road trip across the country, playing at clubs in Pittsburgh, PA; Sioux City, IA; Duluth, MN; Fargo, ND; and Wichita, KS. They conveniently arrived in Wichita just in time for a newcomer tournament, where they triumphantly won the entire game despite being the lowest-ranked pair (see photo). The following day they were actively recruited for their first attempt at Swiss teams. After winning this event as well, they doubled their masterpoint total, achieving the coveted rank of Junior Master.

Lee and Ross returned to Vermont to begin M.S. degrees at UVM in Geology and Mathematics, respectively. For the next three years, they continued to attend the Monday night games every week and traveled (often with Ross's grandparents) to many tournaments around New England, gradually developing their own style. They realized that they enjoyed learning new conventions, and eventually adopted numerous bidding gadgets which frequently solicited comical nicknames from the Monday night crowd. Some of their favorite conventions include Mini-Roman, Snapdragon, SCUM, and Puppet Stayman. There were many high points during their time playing bridge in Burlington, including having their first 75% game this past winter. There have also been periodic humorous bidding blow-ups, usually immediately following the introduction of a new convention. At the President's Cup two years ago, they had just adopted super-accepting transfers over 1NT. Lee had the perfect hand to use the new toy, and excitedly super-accepted Ross's transfer to hearts; alas, Ross forgot to re-transfer to hearts, and the pair rapidly arrived at the 6-level without the intended trump suit ever having been bid. Ross had the brilliant idea to spontaneously invent a 6-level transfer by bidding 6D;

unfortunately, Lee had no idea what he was doing and passed. Lee had the pleasure to play 6D in her 3-1 fit.

As a product of their growing love of the game, Lee and Ross have expanded beyond the weekly club games and occasional tournaments. They have become dedicated to teaching bridge to other young adults. Since 2007, they have taught over 100 students at Middlebury in an annual winter course, and have even managed to convince some of their students to come to the Monday night game.

After five years of playing in Burlington, it has sadly come time for Lee and Ross to move on (but don't worry, they're not going very far away!). They will both be starting graduate school again, this time for PhD's at Dartmouth. Ross will be in the Engineering department, studying the mechanics of sea ice in northern Alaska and Antarctica. Lee will continue her work on climate change in Greenland through the Earth Sciences department. They plan to play bridge in the Hanover club weekly, and hope to see many of the Burlington players at tournaments in the future.

During their time in Vermont, bridge has been an incredibly important part of Lee and Ross's lives. They want to very sincerely thank the Burlington bridge players for the years of friendship, support, and encouragement. Please keep in touch; Lee is lbcorbett@gmail.com and Ross is rliemblappen@gmail.com

Check It Out

The Vermont Bridge Association has a great new website at www.vermontbridge.org. John Conova is our web master. Muchas gracias, John. You should all know who John is. He was the featured personality in our last issue. His picture was on the front page.

Change in Table Talk Distribution

For the major part of the past 20 years, David Shaw has taken on the responsibility of producing the printed copies of Table Talk. He has produced the copies at his office and has donated his labor and charged the unit only his actual cost for materials. Dave is no longer able to do our printing and the cost of a commercial printer would be prohibitive.

We may be fortunate enough to find an alternate cost effective way to produce printed copies **BUT**

We shall not be producing printed copies of this issue. We shall be distributing it via email to our entire VBA email list (not to just the list of those who have expressed the desire to receive Table Talk electronically). We will post Table Talk on our new website. We believe most of our membership will be able to access Table Talk in one of these two ways. The electronic age is truly upon us.

Your Table Talk editor would like to thank Dave Shaw for his great service to the VBA.

VERMONT SUGAR TIME SECTIONAL RESULTS

Williston, VT

April 1-3, 2011

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
3.83	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Clifford Gordon	69.69
2.87	2			Wayne Hersey – Stanley Rosenthal	67.74
2.48	3	1		William Schiring – Nicholas Ecker Racz	65.90
1.62	4			June Dorion – Donald Campbell	57.86
1.86	5	2	1	Gordon Johnson – Richard Clark	54.38
1.40		3		Edward Schirmer – Jay Friedenson	53.65
1.05		4		Pierce Smith – Barbara Fitzgerald	49.53
0.78		5		Bryant Jones – Thomas Osmer	47.23
1.24			2	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	46.92
0.93			3	Ronald Silverman – June Silverman	46.71

Friday Afternoon 99er Pairs

MP	Names	PCT
1.33	1 Nancy Madden – Margie Berger	58.33
1.00	2 Barbara Hibbitts – Don Sharp	56.94
0.66	3/4 Dorothy Carpenter – Sheila Sharp	52.08
0.66	3/4 Marc Monheimer – Alex Rose	52.08

Friday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
3.33	1	1	1	Gordon Johnson – Richard Clark	59.03
2.50	2	2		Jay Friedenson – Edward Schirmer	57.87
1.87	3	3		Gary Feingold – Kotze Toshev	57.18
1.40	4			Wayne Burt – Arthur Giovannangeli	56.94
1.05	5			Cliff Gordon – Phil Sharpsteen	56.25
0.79	6			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	54.17
1.05		4		Lynn Carew – Patricia Nestork	50.93
1.33		5	2	Carla Klop – Anja Guignon	50.23
1.00			3	Arthur Aiken – Linda Aiken	48.15
0.75			4	Sally Newton – John Newton	47.69

Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.00	1			Courtney Nelson – Robert Smith	62.04
3.00	2			Elaine Day – Bruce Downing	61.57
2.25	3			Wayne Burt – Arthur Giovannangeli	58.56

2.62	4	1		Stanley Rosenthal – Jay Friedenson	58.33
1.97	5	2	1	Thomas Cronin – Lorraine Streeter	57.41
0.95	6			Phil Sharpsteen – Clifford Gordon	55.31
1.47		3		Patricia Nestork – Lynn Carew	54.40
1.11		4		Robert Chiabrandy – David Perrin	52.55
0.87		5		Bryant Jones – Barbara Fitzgerald	51.39
1.41			2	B Tysor – Claire Gardner	50.23
1.06			3	Sally Newton – John Newton	48.38
0.79			4	Michael Bell – Jenny Bell	47.22

Saturday Morning 199er Pairs

MP				Names	PCT
1.24	1			Dorothy Carpenter – Sheila Sharp	63.00
0.93	2			Carla Klop – Anja Guignon	57.00

Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
3.83	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Cliff Gordon	68.52
2.92	2	1		Jay Friedenson – Stanley Rosenthal	65.74
2.19	3	2	1	B Tysor – Claire Gardner	58.80
1.64	4	3	2	Michael Bell – Jenny Bell	56.71
1.21	5			Wayne Burt – Arthur Giovannangeli	56.25
1.23	6	4	3	Teri Carpenter – Susan Penner	56.02
0.92		5	4	Ronald Silverman – June Silverman	55.32
0.69		6/7	5/6	Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	50.46
0.61		6/7	5/6	Frances Wager – Luisa Chernyshov	50.46

Sunday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
5.50	1	1		Wayne Burt – Arthur Giovannangeli	86
				Hanan Lushkov – Jesse Stalker	
4.13	2			Phil Sharpsteen – Wayne Hersey	82
				J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	
3.44	3	2		Jay Friedenson – Stanley Rosenthal	75
				Gary Feingold – Kotze Toshev	
2.58	4	3		Claire Gardner – Elaine Day	66
				B Tysor – Bruce Downing	
2.83		4	1	Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	63
				Gerow Carlson – Mary Azarian	
2.12			2	John Newton – Sally Newton	58
				John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	

ACBL President Visits Manchester, VT

By Patti Smith

Forty-eight bridge players from Manchester and the Mountains – and some who traveled from mid-Vermont and Burlington—came out on April 20 to play in a charity event to honor Board President, Craig Robinson, on what was the fifth stop on his mission to visit 100 bridge clubs across the country. Now, twelve tables may not seem like a lot of people to some clubs, but in Vermont in April – a month locals refer to as “Mud Season,” when many of our regular players head south or west for dryer climates – and add to that, it was both Passover and Easter week -- having a twelve-table game is somewhat of a miracle!

Just about everyone at the game was able to spend a moment or two talking with Craig, if not at the bridge table, then while having a snack at the luncheon table. In his welcoming comments, President Robinson mentioned honorees present, Barbara Cross and Gerry Deyo, two of the founders of a Tuesday evening duplicate game in Manchester in the 1970s. That game was originally played in the basement of a local motel, and then moved on to a church hall, where it remained for many years, and has now moved into the Manchester & the Mountains Duplicate Bridge Center.

We were honored to have had the pleasure of the President’s company, wish him safe and fruitful travels, and hope some day he will return to Manchester for a game or two of Vermont friendly bridge.



ACBL President Craig Robinson (left) with Barbara Cross and Gerry Deyo

Vermonters On The Way Up

Congratulations to the following VBA members who have achieved new ranks in the master point hierarchy. Well done!!

Junior Master:

Susan Brown
Robert Mays

Karen Hewitt
Martin Silton

Adele Martin

Club Master:

Deirdre Ellerson
Robert Wilkes

Carol Slesar

Muriel Steinberg

Sectional Master:

Margie Berger

Marc Monheimer

Kate Spencer

Regional Master:

Constance Fitzcharles

Israel Perlman

NABC Master:

Jan Gisholt

Bronze Life Master:

Lucy Morini

Gold Life Master:

Rudolph Polli

Rutland News

The Marble Valley Duplicate Bridge club is holding a Monday afternoon game throughout the **summer** at Christ The King's Engle Hall at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 For partners or directions, please call Judi Ward @345-7697

They are also sponsoring the third annual Bill Becker Memorial unit game on August 4th at 6:45p.m. at the Godnick Center. The cost is \$7:00 and includes refreshments. For more information, please call Judi Ward @ 345-7697.

DIRECTOR (please)

By Jim Thomas

The world of tournament bridge is evolving. There are now new games available at regional tournaments. The two newest are the bracketed Swiss teams and "Gold Rush" pair games for players with fewer than 750 master points.

In **ANY** bracketed event, it is important to report accurately your team master points. The slip that you fill out when you buy your entry asks for three items (total team master points, number of players on the team and a name that the directors may call if there is a problem before the game starts). Report the master point total of all players. If you have a five or six person team, the computer will automatically place you in the correct bracket if you state that you have a five or six person team. If you report too few master points and are incorrectly bracketed in a lower bracket, you will be disqualified and not eligible for any master point awards. If you report too many master points, you may be placed in a higher bracket and winning will be more difficult. Your total team master points are not checked until after all names are entered into the computer (which is midway in the first round and too late to correct the bracketing). The ACBL updates master point totals monthly on around the 7th of the month. You may be able to check master point levels before the game, but if you are planning to play in a bracketed event, check your level online in the most recent ACBL bulletin before you go to the regional.

The bracketed Swiss teams is a cross between knockouts and Swiss teams. The field is bracketed at the time of entry by team total master points. Most of the brackets will have eight teams and you will play **ALL** the other teams in your bracket. You cannot withdraw early from this event as you can from a straight Swiss teams. This event ends earlier than a regular Swiss teams, because you don't have to wait for the last team to finish to get your pairing for the next round.

Depending on region of the country, the top and/or bottom bracket may not have eight teams. This depends on the number of teams entered. You do not have to play a team that is out of your bracket, so a C team will never face an A team. The bracket(s) with more than eight teams are matched like a regular Swiss based on victory points at the end of each round. The number of master points awarded depends on the number of brackets and the strength of your bracket. In some parts of the country you may ask to "play up", but this is not permitted in all regions. Some regions have the first bracket with only eight teams and only the last bracket with more than eight teams. These rules are defined in the conditions of contest.

The "Gold Rush" started as a pair game for players with fewer than 750 master points. In reality, this is a stratiflighted event with an A flight for players with more than 750 master points. The "Gold Rush" pair game is then stratified as 0-300 and 300-750. **All** players are eligible for gold points. Players with section tops or overall placing in the higher stratification get gold points. These games have been a huge success in New England with a first place award of nearly 20 gold points. Players with more than 750 master points should play in the A/X pairs as that game gets credit for all the tables in the "Gold Rush" pairs and that game also has large master point awards.

New England regionals now hold "Gold Rush" Swiss teams and a compact knockout. In Sturbridge and Warwick the events are scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. There will also be a bracketed Swiss on Thursday. Gold points have never been easier to obtain. In Saratoga, the "Gold Rush" pair games were on Friday and Saturday. In the Liverpool (Syracuse) August regional the "Gold Rush" games are scheduled daily Tuesday through Saturday.

I would like to change the subject for the last part of this article and to say a bit about tempo. It is important to act in tempo in both bidding and play. A fast pass can convey as much unauthorized information as a slow pass. As much as possible, plan your defense of the hand at trick one while the declarer is thinking about his/her play of the hand. Decide at trick one whether you are going to cover an honor or duck, so when the play is presented you play in tempo. That makes declarer play much more difficult. Hesitation at the time the honor is played may give away the position. Play each card at the same speed (this does not mean slowly). Slow play is also to be avoided.

It is also impolite to detach a card from your hand before declarer or dummy plays a card. This behavior may be considered intimidating and subject to penalty.

All The Marbles

By Frank Hacker

Here are 2 hands where it's possible to take home all the marbles.

1. The first comes from the recent senior regional at Hyannis. Get it right and you come in first overall in the Sunday top bracket Swiss. You open 1C with

S AKQ H AKJ9 D 743 C Q43

Partner responds 1H which you raise to 4H. Partner cue bids 5D. What now? See below for the solution to this problem.

2. Hand 2 comes from the May 20 club game in Montpelier. What weird distribution!! It must be one of those darned computer hands. Oh wait a minute! The humans dealt this hand at the start of the game.

Dealer: North
Vul: East-West

North

S xxx
H K10xxxx
D Void
C xxxx

West

S J9xxx
H x
D Void
C QJ109xxx

East

S AK10
H Axx
D 865432
C A

South

S Qx
H QJx
D AKQJ1097
C K

I was East and opened the bidding 1D. South preempted with 3D. This ended the bidding. South made 3D and we scored -110. What a strange hand! We entered the auction only at the 1 level and sold out to 3D when we can take all 13 tricks (all the marbles) in either black suit.

It turns out that -110 was an average result (2.5 out of 5). One North/South pair scored +300 and another scored +400. I know that at one table East opened 1D and everybody passed.

Solution to hand 1: The winning action is to bid 5S (or 6H). Partner's hand is

S J10xx H Q10xxxx D AKx C Void

At the table opener was afraid of clubs elected to sign off in 5H. The result was 5H making 7. Guess who didn't win the bracket 1 Swiss teams.

What should opener do? He knows partner doesn't have the ace of clubs, since he would have bid the lower ranking ace first. Should opener reason that partner must have something in clubs to suggest the possibility of a slam? Should he reason that, because of the opening 1C bid, partner is counting on opener for clubs?

Should responder have cue bid clubs instead of diamonds. That wouldn't have helped, since opener's 3 small diamonds would certainly have forced a retreat to 5H. Maybe responder should just have taken a chance and blasted to 6H. That works on the actual hand but not if opener's clubs and spades were reversed (Qxx of spades and AKQ of clubs).

Of all the people I consulted, only one said he would have cue bid 5S. That was Rich DeMartino. It's funny how people with over 22,000 master points frequently make the right decision.

VERMONT SPRING SECTIONAL RESULTS

Rutland, VT May 27-29, 2011

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.33	1	1		John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	64.79
3.25	2			Robert Dickson – Michael Rogers	63.50
2.44	3			Wayne Hersey – Bryant Jones	59.63
1.83	4			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	57.96
2.63	5	2		Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes	57.37
1.97	6	3	1	Joseph Morein – Claire Genser	56.62
1.48		4	2	John Newton – Sally Newton	55.17
1.11		5		Jay Friedenson – Layton Davis	54.73
0.88		6		Abraham Brown – Jean Brown	52.70
1.04			3	Firm Weaver – John Weaver	50.62
0.78			4	Barbara Varney – Lynn Beebe	50.40
0.61			5	Matthew Fleming – Arlene Fleming	50.28

Friday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
3.67	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	66.90
2.75	2			Gerald DiVincenzo – Michael Farrell	65.05
2.92	3	1	1	Lynn Beebe – Barbara Varney	56.25
2.19	4	2		Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes	55.09
1.64	5	3	2	Sandy Desilets – Rhoda Chickering	53.94
0.92	6/8			Wayne Hersey – Bryant Jones	52.55
1.08	6/8	4/5	3	Sally Newton – John Newton	52.55
1.08	6/8	4/5		Elizabeth VonRiesenfelder – C Kirk Osterland	52.55
1.38		6		John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	51.85

Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.67	1	1		S Michael Sharp – Nancy Sharp	65.12
3.50	2			Gerald DiVincenzo – Michael Farrell	63.94
2.63	3			John Cole – Maurice Emond	60.12
2.51	4	2		Jay Friedenson – Layton Davis	59.86
1.63	5			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	58.49
1.88	6	3		Bryant Jones – Barbara Fitzgerald	58.44
1.41		4		Reid Fleming – Albert Muggia	58.09
1.06		5		Sandy Desilets – Rhoda Chickering	55.61
0.79		6		Pierce Smith – James Thomas	53.85
1.84			1	Susan Benson – Amy Labie	49.46
1.38			2	Lynn Beebe – Barbara Varney	47.85
1.04			3	Robert Dickson – Peter Mitchell	47.76
0.87			4	Sally Newton – John Newton	47.40
0.61			5	Raymond Lopes – Susan Ransom	47.17

Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.50	1			Gerald DiVincenzo – Michael Farrell	66.19
3.38	2			Satya Pabuwal – Walter Smith	64.26
3.50	3	1	1	Inge Cassidy – Kenneth Cestone	60.42
2.63	4	2		Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes	60.26
1.58	5			Stanley Rosenthal – Wayne Hersey	57.05
1.97	6/7	3		Albert Muggia – Judie Muggia	56.57
0.94	6/7			Kathleen Farrell – Patricia DiVincenzo	56.57
1.48		4		Jay Friedenson – Layton Davis	54.97
1.30		5	2	Robert Dickson – Peter Mitchell	54.33
0.88		6		James Thomas – Pierce Smith	53.37
0.97			3	Joseph Morein – Claire Genser	51.60
		0.73	4	Judith Ward – Linda Baker	50.96
		0.74			

Sunday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
5.50	1			Nicholas Ecker Racz – Gerald DiVincenzo	121
				David Shaw – Patricia DiVincenzo	
4.15	2	1		Joseph Phillips – Lois Phillips	104
				S Michael Sharp – Nancy Sharp	
3.09	3			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	98
				Rudolph Polli – Fred Donald Jr	
3.11	4	2		Wayne Hersey – Judith Donald	93
				James Chase – Stan Rosenthal	

2.33	3	Bruce Downing – Sonja Smith Mark Conner – David Rock	90
1.75	4	Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes Layton Davis – Jay Friedenson	86
2.27	1	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen Sally Newton – John Newton	65

Queen Asks

By Phil Sharpsteen

Many slam contracts depend on the location of the queen of trump. Because of the importance of the trump queen, bidding methods exist to ask partner whether he has the queen or extra trump length. You may wish to bid a small or grand slam if your side has the trump queen or extra length and otherwise to stay out. Responder typically counts extra length to be the equivalent of the queen, because the queen is much more likely to drop in a ten card trump fit than in a nine card fit.

I have two interesting hands from recent tournaments that illustrate the queen ask for both a small and a grand slam. The small slam hand has an additional twist. – It was played in a flight A KO and BOTH declarers misplayed at trick 2 and BOTH defenders misplayed at trick 3!

Dealer: West

		<u>North</u>			
		S	KJ9x		
		H	Axxxxx		
		D	AK		
		C	K		
	<u>West</u>			<u>East</u>	
	S	A		S	Qx
	H	x		H	KQJ10x
	D	QJ9xxx		D	xxxx
	C	Qxxxx		C	Jx
		<u>South</u>			
		S	108xxxx		
		H	x		
		D	x		
		C	A109xx		

The bidding was the same at both tables

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
2D	DBL	3D	4S
P	4NT	P	5C
P	5D	P	6S
All Pass			

The 4NT bid was Roman key card Blackwood. And asked partner how many of the 5 key cards he held. The 4 aces counted as key cards and also the king of trump. South's 5C bid showed 1 or

4 key cards. North's 5D bid asked South whether he held the queen of trump. South thought his extra length was good enough and bid 6S to show the queen (or extra length) and no outside king.

Both West players led the diamond queen. Both declarers needed to cross to their hand to lead trump. Because of the auction, the safest way would have been to cash the second diamond pitching declarer's singleton heart. Then declarer could trump a heart at trick 3. The subsequent trump lead would draw out the singleton ace – 6 Spades bid and made. Both declarers played dummy's ace of hearts at trick 2 followed by another heart trumped in hand. Both defenders failed to find the winning overruff with the singleton ace. Despite their errors, both declarers made their 6S contract. This goes to show that one can never fully master the game and that even top players make mistakes.

Here is the grand slam hand.

Dealer: North

North
 S Qxx
 H xx
 D Qxx
 C AKJxx

South
 S AK9xxx
 H AKQ
 D AK
 C xx

The bidding was

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	1C	P	1S
P	1NT	P	2D
P	2S	P	4NT
P	5C	P	5NT
P	6C	P	6D
P	6H	P	7S
All Pass			

While you are admiring your south hand, you unexpectedly see partner open 1C. You will NEVER hold this hand again (only 5 red cards AKQAK). You content yourself with a 1S response. Your 2D call is new minor forcing. Partner's 2S response shows a minimum hand with 3 trumps. 4NT was Roman keycard Blackwood. The 5C response showed 1 or 4 key cards. The six club response showed the club king. Responder's 6D call asked for the trump queen. The 6H Call said yes (6S would have said no). South had no trouble bidding the virtually cold grand slam.

I still remember attending a lecture at a recent national tournament by bridge pro and raconteur Eddie Kantar. Eddie told us about "Too Tall Tex" who had a reputation for peeking. Too Tall added an additional step to his queen ask responses. 5S showed 2 key cards with the queen. The additional step of 5NT stated, "Partner, I don't have the queen, but I know who does."

Vermont On The Tournament Trail

Many Vermonters have done well (10 points or more) recently at the Louisville Nationals and at a number of regionals. There have been many tournaments since the last issue. My apologies for any inadvertent omissions.

Here is a list of recent Vermont successes

<u>Louisville Nationals:</u>	Courtney Nelson	17.82	Penny Lane	10.66
	J Peter Tripp	10.66		
<u>Orlando:</u>	Allan Graves	108.80	Mary Savko	23.18
	Don Sondergeld	17.05	Ellie Hanlon	16.94
<u>Cromwell:</u>	Norma Jakominich	16.83	John Conova	16.83
<u>Palmetto:</u>	Frank Hacker	39.01	Ellie Hanlon	26.19
	Mary Savko	26.19		
<u>Fort Lauderdale:</u>	Allan Graves	95.53	Mary Savko	34.73
	Ellie Hanlon	34.73		
<u>Gatlinburg:</u>	Phil Sharpsteen	52.74	Frank Hacker	52.74
	Wayne Hersey	45.49	Peter Tripp	44.79
	Penny Lane	43.98	Don Sondergeld	25.02
<u>Hyannis:</u>	Phil Sharpsteen	45.73	Frank Hacker	45.73
	Peter Tripp	16.69	Wayne Hersey	16.69
	Ruth Stokes	16.21	Jay Friedenson	16.21
<u>Oklahoma City:</u>	Mary Savko	57.15	Ellie Hanlon	57.15

World Wide Bridge Contest

A world wide bridge competition took place on Friday evening June 3 and Saturday afternoon June 4. Clubs throughout the world participated in the two single session events. Vermonters participated on Friday night at the Apollo Bridge Club in Montpelier and on Saturday afternoon at the Burlington Bridge Academy. The results for those 2 games are given below. The masterpoint awards shown and the percentages are based on the results achieved locally. The world wide ranks are based on world wide matchpoints where each board has a matchpoint top of about 5,000, based on the actual number of times the board was played around the world. As you can see, the world wide ranks don't necessarily follow the local ranks. Some of the differences are surprising. The ranks are based on those posted on the ecatsbridge.com website at the time I prepared this article. As of the time of this article, there were 5,232 pairs with results reported for Friday night and 5,214 pairs with results reported for Saturday afternoon.

Friday Night

MP	A	B	C	Names		WW Rank
3.00	1			Penny Lane – J Peter Tripp	63.10	577
2.25	2			Rhoda Chickering – Sandy Desilets	61.31	212
1.69	3			Guy Smythe – Wayne Hersey	60.12	1,024
1.27	4			Rudolph Polli – Frank Hacker	58.63	755
1.62	5	1		Rick Clark – Gordon Johnson	57.14	1,497
1.22		2		Bill Callnan – Don Wallace	53.87	1,710
1.11		3	1	Maureen Labenski – Ed Labenski	50.89	2,815
0.83		4	2	Jenny Bell – George Phillips	46.73	3,136

Saturday Afternoon

MP	A	B	C	Names		WW Rank
3.33	1	1	1	Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	61.92	274
2.50	2			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	59.05	710
1.87	3			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	57.74	704
1.80	4	2		Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes	57.38	1,828
1.50	5	3	2	John Newton – Sally Newton	54.66	2,345
1.01	6	4		Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	54.65	1,352
0.84		5		Rudy Polli – Jackie Kimel	54.10	1,562
1.13			3	Julie Mcallister – Peter Allen	51.83	2,723
0.84			4	George Davey – Nancy Charbonneau	50.38	2,151

Tiernan Trophy Race

Every year the Vermont Bridge Association awards the Tiernan trophy to the VBA member who accumulates the most master points in the 4 Vermont sectional tournaments. Here are the halfway results for 2011. Frequent winner Phil Sharpsteen is in the lead. Here are the top 10 after 2 tournaments. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Phil Sharpsteen	24.01	6.	Karen Kristiansen	11.34
2.	Jay Friedenson	19.73	7.	John Conova	11.09
3.	Stan Rosenthal	19.17	7.	Michael Farrell	10.75
4.	Wayne Hersey	17.35	9.	Frank Hacker	10.22
5.	Jerry DiVincenzo	16.25	10/11	John Newton	10.20
			10/11	Sally Newton	10.20

Scott Aborn Trophy Race

Every year the Vermont Bridge Association awards the Scott Aborn trophy to the VBA member who starts the year as a non-life master and who accumulates the most master points in the 4 Vermont sectional tournaments. Here are the halfway results for 2011. Last year's winner, Karen Kristiansen, is in the lead again. Here are the top 10 after 2 tournaments. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Karen Kristiansen	11.34	6.	Kenneth Cestone	3.50
2/3.	Richard Clark	6.04	7.	Inge Cassidy	3.50
3.	Gordon Johnson	6.04	8/9.	Joseph Morein	2.94
4/5.	Mark Adair	3.52	8/9.	Claire Genser	2.94
4/5.	Vivienne Adair	3.52	10.	Carla Klop	2.77

Mini-McKenney Race

Every year the ACBL has several master point competitions. The Barry Crane top 500 race recognizes the top 500 master point winners for the year. The mini-McKenney races recognize the top performers in each masterpoint category, based on beginning of year status. The listings are by unit (in our case unit 175 - Vermont) or by district (in our case district 25 – New England) or for the entire ACBL. The unit listings give the top 10 winners by masterpoint category, the district listings the top 25 and the national listings the top 100. Here are the 2010 top 3 in each category for the VT unit. Numbers in parentheses show district rank for those in the top 25. Bold numbers in parentheses show national rank for those in the top 100. Congratulations to all for a fine performance.

0–5 race

1	Arlene Fleming	19.78
2.	Matthew Fleming	19.54
3.	Claire Genser	18.66

5–20 race

1.	Bernard Long	24.91
2.	Kate Spencer	24.84
3.	Cathy Kimmel	21.69

20–50 race

1.	Dorothy Williams	27.09
2.	Mary Falk	26.75
3.	Catherine Loew	26.12

50–100 race

1	(7)	Israel Perlman	103.16
2.		Shirley Perlman	38.03
3.		Phyllis Tremaine	32.24

100–200 race

1.	Linda Nelson	68.55
2.	Carolyn Kelley	58.86
3.	Jan Gisholt	43.11

200–300 race

1.		Richard Clark	82.21
2.		Wendy Baurmeister	48.71
3.		Judith Ward	36.64

300–500 race

1.	(7)	John Conova	157.06
2.		Josephine Machera	79.59
3.		John Nelson	68.55

500–1,000 race

1.		Jim Daigle	122.92
2.		Norma Jakominich	122.70
3.		Judy Frank	113.56

1,000–2,500 race

1.	(9)	Penny Lane	349.09
2.		Jesse Stalker	198.37
3.		Rudolph Polli	170.49

2,500–5,000 race

1.	(6)	J Peter Tripp	402.66
2.	(16)	Wayne Hersey	308.12
3.		Courtney Nelson	229.14

5,000–7,500 race

1.	(8)	Frank Hacker	363.12
2.		James Gordon	72.44

Over 10,000 race

1.	(2)	(34) Allan Graves	1,257.74
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Ace of Clubs

Every year the ACBL also has similar races to recognize master points won at the club level. Here are the 2010 winners. Congratulations to all for a job well done.

0–5 race

1.	(19)	Arlene Fleming	19.04
2.	(20)	Matthew Fleming	18.80
3.	(22)	Claire Genser	18.66

5–20 race

1.		Bernard Long	24.91
2.		Cathy Kimmel	21.21
3.		Jenny Bell	18.02

20–50 race

1.		Dorothy Williams	27.09
2.		Mary Falk	26.75
3.		Mary Ann Kaplinsky	22.02

50–100 race

1	(2)	(33)	Israel Perlman	93.93
2.			Shirley Perlman	34.57
3.			Phyllis Tremaine	31.86

100–200 race

1.		Carolyn Kelley	56.71
2.		Constance Fitzcharles	40.03
3.		Diane Maher	34.73

200–300 race

1.		Richard Clark	61.33
2.		Wendy Baurmeister	46.75
3.		Judith Ward	30.57

300–500 race

1.	(19)	Josephine Machera	76.54
2.		John Conova	65.19
3.		Virginia Christy	37.60

500–1,000 race

1	(15)	Jim Daigle	109.64
2.		Judy Frank	72.98
3.		Nancy Lolli	72.65

1,000–2,500 race

1.	(6)	Jesse Stalker	179.49
2.	(16)	Rudolph Polli	145.91
3.		Marcia Wilkins	124.11

2,500–5,000 race

1.		Wayne Hersey	110.68
2.		Fred Donald, Jr	105.30
3.		Kathleen Farrell	97.20

5,000–7,500 race

1 (14) Frank Hacker 143.18

Over 10,000 race

1. (15) Allan Graves 9.41

Black Point Charity Event at Southern Vermont Art Center

The Art of Bridge, a fundraiser for the Southern Vermont Art Center, will take place on Monday, JULY 11, 2011, at Yester House Gallery at the Southern Vermont Art Center in Manchester, Vermont.

Last year's event was a huge success. Twenty-four and a half tables of very enthusiastic bridge players filled the Yester House Gallery. This year's tournament will be directed by Robert H. Smith of Manchester & the Mountains Duplicate Bridge Club and co-chaired by Andy Avery. It will be a black-point rated, sanctioned charity event, with a separate Chicago rubber bridge section.

Entry Fee/Sponsorship Levels:

\$75 Entry Fee ♣ \$150 Game ♠ \$500 Small Slam ♦ \$1,000 Grand Slam

Registration starts at 8:15 a.m. at the Elizabeth de C. Wilson Museum, directly across from Yester House. The tournament starts at 9:00 a.m., followed by lunch. Proceeds will benefit the Southern Vermont Art Center.

Yester House, once the 28 room Georgian Revival mansion and centerpiece of the former Gertrude Divine Webster estate, was purchased as the permanent home for the Southern Vermont Artists, the forerunner of today's Southern Vermont Arts Center, in 1951. Placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1988, Yester House Gallery now houses the Southern Vermont Arts Center's administrative offices and its major annual and invitational exhibitions; the mansion's former entrance foyer, salons, bed chambers and sitting rooms now comprise ten beautiful galleries featuring for sale the art of more than 600 artists. Attending bridge players are welcome to browse through the entire Yester House gallery, which will be closed that day to the general public. Memberships to the Arts Center will be available to players at a special 30% discount off regular prices.

Bridge is a highly skilled art. Duplicate players from far and away are invited to attend, demonstrate the art of bridge, and generously contribute to this very deserving cause.

Call the Art Center to register, 802-362-1405. For other questions about the game, please call Robert H. Smith, 802-362-4224.

The Art of Bridge promises to be a great bridge and art day. Hope to see you at the table!

Robert H. Smith
Co-Chair and Director
802-362-4224

Trivia Question: Most Table Talk Issues are 22 pages long. Do you know why?

Answer: The reason is the cost of postage. We can mail 11 sheets of paper at the cost of 2 ounces of postage. The 12th sheet of paper put us into the third ounce of postage.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

June. 13-19	District 3 Spring Regional, Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, NY
June 20-26	NE Summer Regional, Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA
June 25	Kingdom's Championship Game, St. Johnsbury House, 10:30 AM. St. Johnsbury
June 28-July 3	CANAT Regional, Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB
July 8-10	Vermont Summer Sectional, Holiday Inn, Rutland, VT (see flyer this issue)
July 21-31	Summer Nationals, Fairmont Royal York & Sheraton Centre Toronto, Toronto, ONT
Aug. 1-7	Burt Garrell Regional, Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool, Liverpool, NY
Aug. 4	Bill Becker Memorial Game, Godnick Center, Rutland 6:45 PM.
Aug. 6	Marilyn Hacker Memorial Pairs, Burlington Bridge Club, 156 Commerce St., Williston, 10:30 AM.
Aug. 8-14	CANAM Regional, Wyndham Airport Hotel, Montreal, QC
Aug. 29-Sep 4	Labor Day Regional, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI
Oct. 2	Vermont Bridge Association Annual Meeting and President's Pairs, traditional turkey dinner, price \$14.00 for VBA members (\$28.00 for nonmembers), subsidized by VBA --- location is Burlington Bridge Club's new quarters at 156 Commerce, St., Williston, 10:30 AM
Oct. 17-23	District 3 Regional, Danbury, CT
Oct. 28-30	Vermont Fall Sectional, Holiday Inn, Rutland, VT
Nov. 16-20	NE Masters Regional, Mansfield, MA
Nov. 24 – Dec. 4	Fall Nationals, Seattle

VERMONT

Independence Day

SECTIONAL

July 8 ~ 10, 2011

Holiday Inn
476 U.S. Route 7 South
Rutland, VT 05701

Sanction # S1107056



FRIDAY, JULY 8

1:30 pm Open Pairs, Stratified
1:30 pm Newcomer Pairs, Stratified
7:30 pm Open Pairs, Stratified
7:30 pm Newcomer Pairs, Stratified

SATURDAY, JULY 9

10:00 am Open Pairs, Stratified
10:00 am Newcomer Pairs, Stratified
3:00 pm Open Pairs, Stratified
3:00 pm Newcomer Pairs, Stratified

(Please note change to Stratified Open Pairs formerly stratiflighted with A separate from B, C, and D)

SUNDAY, JULY 10

10:30 am 1st session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified
10:30 am 0 to 300 Swiss Teams (one session only)
TBA 2nd session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified

NEW STRATIFICATIONS:

OPEN ~ A: above 2500 B: 750 to 2500 C: 0 to 750

SWISS TEAM ~ as above but will use the **average** master points for the team

NEWCOMER ~ A: 100 to 300 B: 50 to 100 C: 0 to 50

(Strats may be adjusted.)

Price per session ~ \$9

\$1 additional for non-ACBL members or members whose dues are not up to date.

VT State Law: No smoking in public buildings and/or the playing area.

Director (and MC): Dave Marshall

Partnerships and information:

Phil Sharpsteen, (802) 899-2080

Hospitality ~ The VBA is pleased to offer free refreshments after the Friday evening session and at 10:00 am Sunday morning before the Swiss Teams.

Tournament Accommodations

Rutland Holiday Inn

1-800-462-4810 for reservations

ONE NIGHT STAY

Double bed: 1 person, \$99 2 people, \$115

King bed: 1 person, \$105 2 people, \$125

TWO NIGHT STAY

Double bed: 1 person, \$179 2 people, \$209

King bed: 1 person, \$199 2 people, \$229

Includes 1 complimentary hot breakfast per person per night and one \$10 food voucher per person per night. Prices do not include tax.



Vermont Friendly Bridge

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Frank A. Hacker, Editor
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Barre, VT 05641

The Vermont Bridge Association, Unit 175 of the American Contract Bridge League publishes Table Talk quarterly. If you are an ACBL and Unit 175 (Vermont) member And have not received a copy of Table Talk, please notify the editor. Contributors' articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the VBA.